

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 24, 2005
7:30 p.m.**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present were Vice-Chair Greck and Committee members Donald Burgess, Joshua Feingold, Christina Pellicane and Frances Steier. Also in attendance was Urban Forester, Mike Orfanedes.

Mr. Orfanedes advised that Committee member, Casey Lee, would arrive later.

Chair Joyce Steward and Committee member, Toni Webb, were not in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 15, 2004

Mr. Burgess made a motion, seconded by Dr. Feingold, to approve the November 15, 2004 Minutes pending corrections given by Vice-Chair Greck. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion passed 5-0)

DAVIE DOG PARK

Vice-Chair Greck invited guests in attendance to address the Committee.

Tina Wright, resident of District 1, spoke on behalf of a group of residents present who desired a dog park in Davie. She requested that the Committee assist the Town in giving this project some direction.

Dr. Feingold advised that the Committee's charge was mainly to promote Open Space, but not develop the open space, which would be a factor involved in building a dog park.

Vice-Chair Greck asked the group if they had been before the Parks and Recreation Board. Ms. Wright responded yes, and explained that the Parks and Recreation Board (PRAB) had suggested 3 potential sites for a dog park: Wolf Lake, Van Kirk and Sunny Lake. She further stated that the PRAB had requested that the group identify additional land that might be suitable. She stated that as residents they could not go about finding additional land and needed input from the OSAC.

Dr. Pellicane did not feel the 3 sites suggested were the best options, and felt a more open area would be more conducive to a dog park.

Mr. Orfanedes asked what would be needed to build a dog park. A resident explained the features found in a typical dog park.

Vice-Chair Greck agreed that a dog park might be needed on the east side of Town, and indicated she would support looking into this issue further.

Dr. Pellicane suggested Linear Park as a location.

Kathy Cox, a resident of Davie, suggested open areas at:

- 1) Robbins Lodge
- 2) The south entrance on the south side of Bamford – which had oak trees and a pavilion
- 3) Lange Park – where the west side had an open area that was not used much

Dr. Feingold asked about liability issues. A resident explained that a combined park needed to have separate pathways and separate entrances. Another resident indicated that she had gathered numerous signatures in support of a Davie dog park. A resident asked if this could stay on the Agenda for ongoing discussion as there was much public support for this.

Vice-Chair Greck advised that the residents in attendance continue to talk with their Councilmembers on this issue. She indicated that the Committee would keep this issue in mind.

Mr. Orfanedes asked the group to bring back photos of other dog parks.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Greck requested discussing **Item 3.4** first to accommodate Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen's presentation.

3.4 Wetland Mitigation Master Plan

Mr. Cohen gave a brief presentation on the Town's Wetland Mitigation Master Plan. He advised that the Town had organized a group to see how many sites were suitable and distributed the first draft of the plan, which was done after the Town's initial analysis. Mr. Cohen asked the Committee what its focus on mitigation was. Mr. Orfanedes asked the Committee for comments and feedback.

Dr. Feingold indicated that he was surprised as he thought most of the areas identified were set up as open space or for general activities. Mr. Cohen said he was not suggesting that the areas be wetlands, but wanted the Committee to identify sites that could be wetlands.

Vice-Chair Greck stated that the Committee had concerns about past mitigation goals that were never achieved.

Mr. Orfanedes and the Committee members discussed what was illustrated on different parcels reflected on the draft.

Vice-Chair Greck spoke of the Committee's ongoing recommendations for the Town to come up with a master plan that spelled out mitigation rules for Davie, rather than having individual developers develop their own small mitigation sites. Dr.

Pellicane spoke of situations in the past where developers had totally ignored their obligations to the Town and walked away.

Dr. Pellicane mentioned the developer at West Ridge who did not follow through with the site's mitigation and asked what the outcome was. Mr. Orfanedes indicated that he would look into this.

Mr. Burgess explained some specifics of Broward County's mitigation requirement. He pointed out that the north portion of the Robbins Lodge site with the muck soil had ideal wetland characteristics, along with West Ridge.

Vice-Chair Greck felt it was a good sign that the Town was taking the initiative on this plan and stated she was encouraged by seeing the forward motion on this. She felt the Committee needed more time to review and digest the plan for discussion at a later meeting.

Mr. Cohen requested that the Committee continue to provide input on this matter including suggestions for specific mitigation guidelines and rules.

3.1 Update on Progress of the EAR

Mr. Orfanedes advised that more revisions were needed on goals, objectives and measurable attainments, in progress on the report. He brought up the issue of the Everglades Action Plan where lack of maintenance and best management practices were a concern he wished for the Committee to consider. He felt the Everglades Action Plan being coordinated by Broward County division of Water Resources was basically moving ahead at a good pace.

Vice-Chair Greck asked if there had been much progress since the Committee submitted its recommendations. Mr. Orfanedes indicated that the recommendations had been reviewed and were now back in his court. He requested that this be reviewed for future discussion.

Committee member Casey Lee arrived at 8:30 p.m.

3.2 Davie Area Land Trust Update

Vice-Chair Greck advised that the Davie Area Land Trust meetings were moving forward. She advised that she had been monitoring the group's progress. She also advised that the group met almost weekly, was incorporated but awaiting its 501 (C) 3 and was actively seeking willing property owners interested in looking at ways to preserve their properties. She advised that the group met the first Monday of the month at Robbins Lodge, then the following Tuesday at the Community Room at Town Hall, then met the fourth Tuesday of the month again at Town Hall.

Vice-Chair Greck advised that other Land Trusts had tried to form within South Florida but were unsuccessful.

Mr. Orfanedes advised that the Town was partnering with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) which was a well established land conservation organization. He stated that people were excited about what Davie was doing.

3.3 Parks and Open Space Bond Referendum

Mr. Orfanedes spoke of the TPL partnership with the Town Council. He advised that the TPL had recently given a presentation before the Council on how it could handle promotion and market analysis, to find out the pulse of the community on this issue and to discuss how the bond referendum would be processed.

Vice-Chair Greck advised that TPL had also talked about the timeline for the process and the possibility of using a mail out ballot. Vice-Chair Greck stated that to her understanding the Town was using a fee for service arrangement with TPL.

Ms. Lee spoke of the Arboretum community where she lived which had received a bond from Broward Beautification to re-do its entries and landscape.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 FY 2006 Capital Improvements Budget - Trails

Vice-Chair Greck requested to move on to other items and discuss this after.

4.2 OSAC 2004 Achievements Report

Mr. Orfanedes advised that the Committee needed to write a narrative summary of its 2004 achievements for the Town. He stated that he had asked Chair Steward to begin work on this report and presented the draft she had prepared for the Committee's feedback.

Dr. Feingold asked if a narrative format was needed. Mr. Orfanedes felt the draft probably needed to be expanded.

Vice-Chair Greck advised that she had a copy of the report that was provided to Council in November, 2003.

Dr. Feingold pointed out Item 6d on the draft (under the heading Bond referendum proposed), which read, "additions of amenities to existing parks, parcels and open space". He asked if the Committee had decided that the Bond could or could not include amenities.

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Vice-Chair Greck stated she believed the amenities were considered capital improvements, not maintenance. Vice-Chair Greck stated that “they” were called capital improvements.

Dr. Feingold felt the Committee’s goal of linking the trail system should be better stated in the report. Mr. Orfanedes stated that the Committee’s discussion at the September 2004 trail workshop was a significant achievement.

Vice-Chair Greck felt Item 5 - with the heading, “Identified Trails in the Whole Town” and Item 4 - with the heading, “Open Space Element of the EAR” were understated all around, based on the level of the time and energy the Committee put into these issues.

Mr. Orfanedes asked the Committee if mahogany trees would be a problem on equestrian trails as they dropped large nuts. Ms. Lee felt it would be a long time before the trees produced anything as the growth rate of trees in the Town was slow. She spoke of ongoing problems with the Town’s maintenance program. She further pointed out that the Town put itself in a negative position by installing bad trees on equestrian trails, which could result in lawsuits.

Ms. Lee requested that a staff member talk to the Committee on how it could help staff go into a new direction. She stated that the residents’ tax dollars were being wasted based on the poor planting, watering and fertilization done of the Town’s trees.

Vice-Chair Greck pointed out Item 2 – with the heading “Tree Watering” could be re-stated. Mr. Orfanedes suggested it could be stated as Landscape Best Management Practices.

Mr. Orfanedes wanted to state for the record that lack of basic good care and tree damage done by some subcontractors hired by the Town were killing the Town’s trees.

Dr. Pellicane stated that if the OSAC was considered the Tree Board for the Town, it needed to better address such issues, especially if gross mismanagement by subcontractors was a major factor. She felt there was an educational gap that needed to be addressed.

Vice-Chair Greck asked when the report was due. Mr. Orfanedes advised it was due on January 31.

Regarding landscape maintenance, Mr. Orfanedes asked if the Achievement Report could include language stating that the Committee “had started some initial conversations about this problem.” Dr. Feingold suggested that the wording indicate “a lack of maintenance had been noted...”

Vice-Chair Greck suggested the following wording: “a recommendation stressing the importance of a tree watering requirement for new trees planted was made.” The Committee members agreed.

Ms. Cox pointed out that the OSAC's focus on maintenance should be stated as "an accomplishment goal." She felt that the tree watering issue "fell in this box" which was "Maintenance of the Open Space Program and where the funds would come from." Vice-Chair Greck agreed that identifying "this huge hole" was in itself an accomplishment. She felt the report should reflect the Committee's focus on maintenance, the lack of funding for maintenance, and determining whether and where the funds would come from.

Mr. Orfanedes asked the Committee how it wanted to move forward on completing the Report. Vice-Chair Greck indicated that the Committee would work further on re-organizing the final version of the Report. Dr. Feingold offered his skills in editing the Report.

Mr. Orfanedes spoke of the city of Weston's resolution requiring all who bid on city contracts to have certification and to agree to best management practices certification. He felt that if Davie raised the bar in a similar manner, it would receive better services. Ms. Lee agreed and pointed out that Weston was appealing because of its landscaping, which the city considered important enough to plan for and budget for. She stated that Weston followed through and did what it anticipated to do from the beginning.

Mr. Orfanedes reminded the Committee that the Report was due on January 31.

4.3 Town of Davie Everglades Action Plan Draft

Mr. Orfanedes advised the Committee that Davie had participated in meetings with Broward County and South Florida Water Management District. He stated that the Town had 2 parts to its Everglades Action Plan.

Mr. Orfanedes distributed a draft of one document entitled, "Broward Everglades Pollution Reduction" written by Bruce Bernard, which reviewed different storm water drainage projects going on around the Town. He distributed a draft of another document entitled, "Everglades Pollution Prevention Strategies: Ideas for Consideration," which outlined landscape and fertilization best management practices and suggestions for public outreach programs.

Mr. Orfanedes requested feedback on the Draft from the Committee as Broward County wanted the Town's final version soon.

Vice-Chair Greck referred to the third paragraph on the first page of the "Ideas for Consideration Draft" regarding voluntary reduction of phosphorus pollution, and stated she "would be hard pressed to believe voluntary reductions of phosphorus pollution would be sufficient." Mr. Orfanedes stated that this could be legislated. Dr. Feingold felt the most interesting point made in the draft was the non-availability of correct fertilizer types which was a major issue.

4.4 OSAC Input at Developmental Review

Mr. Orfanedes indicated that he had brought several plans that had trail implications which would need a period of time for detailed review to identify and propose what the Committee wanted to see happen. Mr. Orfanedes advised that the Developmental Review process took place on the second Wednesday of every month in the afternoon, in the Community Room. He advised that these meetings were open to the public.

Vice-Chair Greck stated that the Committee had asked for the ability to provide its input on such plans.

Dr. Pellicane pointed out that meeting once a month was not enough time to address all the Committee's issues. She pointed out the late hour and indicated that the large stack of plans Mr. Orfanedes brought needed hours of review.

Ms. Lee stated she did not want the OSAC's voice not to be heard. She asked if the Committee could go back to meeting once a month. Dr. Pellicane agreed and pointed out that the plans Mr. Orfanedes brought would take one entire meeting alone to discuss. Dr. Feingold stated the OSAC could not meet unless it was an official meeting due to the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Orfanedes stated that the plans were all public records. He suggested that one Committee member could be appointed to go to the Development Review Committee meetings once a month.

Vice-Chair Greck pointed out that Vice-Mayor Paul had advised that all it would take was for the Committee to present to Council a request to meet more frequently because the Agendas were packed and meetings were running for 4 hours. Vice-Chair Greck stated she did not recall the Committee ever going before Council.

Dr. Feingold made a motion that the Committee request to add 4 additional meetings per year, so such plans could be worked into each meeting.

Ms. Lee suggested that a timer be used to specify a limited amount of time to discuss each item at meetings. Dr. Feingold indicated he liked this suggestion.

Vice-Chair Greck asked if the developers should be charged with bringing plans before the OSAC. She felt for the Committee to start with reviewing the plans during its meetings without the developers' input was unrealistic and a disregard for what the Council really asked for.

Vice-Chair Greck felt this was a classic case of "too much information" and felt asking the Committee to hold yet another meeting for this was not right.

Ms. Lee asked if any member on the Site Plan Committee had a true vested interest in the Town's trail system. Mr. Orfanedes advised that very seldom did he see comments on trails.

Ms. Cox stated that the plans were not that difficult to review. Ms. Cox and the Committee members laid out the plans illustrating Flamingo Ranches Estates and other developments in the Town and made general comments on various features.

Ms. Lee asked about the schedule of the Development Review Committee meetings. Mr. Orfanedes advised that the meetings were held at 3 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of every month. He advised that next meeting would be held on February 23. Ms. Lee indicated she would be willing to attend some meetings but was not as knowledgeable about the trails as she did not ride them as other residents did.

Kathy Cox pointed out that she rode the trail system and would be interested if Mr. Orfanedes would call her about the meetings. Dr. Feingold agreed and felt that an individual like Ms. Cox who knew the trail system well could identify potential problems that the Committee could then make recommendations for.

Vice-Chair Greck reiterated that the OSAC going to the Development Review Committee meetings was not the intended action. She requested that the plans brought forward that evening not be considered as having gone through OSAC review.

4.5 Town of Davie “Name the Park” Contest

Mr. Orfanedes advised that the Town required the Committee’s input in selecting the top 3 names submitted for the *Name the Park* Contest, with regard to 58th Avenue, the Van Kirk, Sunny Lake, and Silver Lake sites.

After reviewing the names submitted for each site, the Committee recommended the following names in order of ranking:

Van Kirk Site

- Choice 1: Oak Hill Nature Preserve
- Choice 2: Kirk Preserve
- Choice 3: Egret Lakes Park

Sunny Lake Site

- Choice 1: Sunny Lake Park
- Choice 2: Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary
- Choice 3: Blue Heron Park

Silver Lakes Site

- Choice 1: Silver Lakes Park
- Choice 2: Twin Lakes Park
- Choice 3: Silver Lakes Nature Park

58th Avenue Site

- Choice 1: Curtis Mancini [Park]
- Choice 2: Mancini Park
- Choice 3: Old Davie Park

4.6 Tree Canopy Appreciation Day, February 26 at Robbins Lodge

Mr. Orfanedes announced that Tree Canopy Appreciation Day would be February 26, 2005 at Robbins Lodge.

4.1 FY 2006 Capital Improvements Budget

Mr. Orfanedes advised that by January 31, the Committee needed to have the aspect of the trail improvements put into the Capital Budget which projected 5 years out – to come under Maintenance or Capital Improvements. Mr. Orfanedes shared an email he received from Chris Gratz from FPL regarding its efforts to forge a partnership with local municipalities on completion of recreational trails.

Dr. Feingold asked if the Committee was expected to act immediately on this item. Mr. Orfanedes stated that he wanted the Committee's consensus on items discussed at the September 2004 Trails Workshop that needed to be fast tracked as priorities for the CIP budget.

Vice-Chair Greck stated that one important topic discussed at the Trails Workshop was equestrian crossings from the southern trails on the east side across the C-11 to the Linear Park. Vice-Chair Greck stated she personally wanted to see the Town get state crossings across Linear Trail across the big arteries and at Linear Trail and Flamingo Road.

Vice-Chair Greck and Ms. Cox spoke of various challenges and difficulties regarding crossing the C-11 canal. Ms. Cox felt the Town needed to complete the Linear Trail and also needed to build bridges over the canal at the Linear Trail between Davie Road and University Drive on the Griffin Road side. She advised that bridges needed to be built on the Griffin Road side like the ones on the Orange Drive side, which would result in "a wonderful trail on the south side that would then connect Wolf Lake and give people on the north side of Orange Drive down to Wolf Lake area access to the trail. Vice-Chair Greck stated that Linear Trail at both University Drive and Flamingo Road was a huge issue. Mr. Orfanedes asked if the Committee wanted to propose that bridges be installed over the 3 canals on the south side of Griffin Road. Ms. Cox advised that the correct location was between the canal and the north side of Griffin Road.

Vice-Chair Greck felt installation of the bridges was a good idea. She stated that residents south of Griffin Road often complained that they had no access to the trail system in general. She felt this recommendation would be an enhancement to the Town's trail system.

With regard to the bridge proposal discussed, Dr. Feingold felt the Committee needed more time to review the additional information that would be needed before making a decision, and before this proposal could be put forth in the budget.

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Vice-Chair Greck advised that the deadline for the Committee's input was January 31. Dr. Feingold pointed out that the Committee needed more information on the cost for the 3 bridges proposed. Ms. Cox explained the building materials used in other bridges in the Town which roughly cost \$150,000.

Dr. Feingold requested that Mr. Orfanedes send the relevant information to the Committee members who would then review it and inform him of their priorities individually.

5. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Dr. Feingold made a motion, seconded by Dr. Pellicane, to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 p.m. and continue the discussion of the FY 2006 Capital Improvements Budget online.

In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 6-0)

Approved

Chairperson/Committee Member